

Carissa Saloon
South Pass Avenue
South Pass City
Fremont County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-31

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

CARISSA SALOON

HABS
WYO,
7-SOPAC,
4-

Location: South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS South Pass City Quadrangle Map) 12.680840.4703920.

Present Owner: Janet Tibbals and Peter Marrin.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: None.

Statement of Significance: The Carissa Saloon was one of the longest running bars in South Pass City, and is one of three remaining false-front buildings on South Pass Avenue.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1890.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: (Note: For further information on land ownership in South Pass City see the HABS Report on South Pass City, WYO-27.) On South Pass Avenue, South Pass City, Fremont County, Wyoming. The lot was originally purchased by a Mr. Gaston, who built a general store on the site. The Gaston General Store was sold in 1869 to J. A. Nye and Company. The Nye business continued during the town's boom years, but the history of the building is uncertain. No record of the building can be found in the Sweetwater County records or in the early Fremont County records. In ca. 1890, the present building was erected. In 1908, the property was sold by Mrs. Janet Smith to John and Nettie Marrin and in 1941, Anna Tibbals sold half interest in the property to Janet Tibbals for one dollar. This half interest is now owned by James Tibbals.
4. Alterations and additions: In 1960 a road grader went out of control and struck the Southeast corner (front) of the building heavily damaging it. In 1977 the building was restored and opened to the public.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: None.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Photographic file, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

2. Primary and unpublished sources:

Files on South Pass City, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Research Department; Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for South Pass City, Fremont County Courthouse; Lander, Wyoming.

Shaeffer, Thomas, planner for the Wyoming Recreation Commission; interview in Cheyenne, Wyoming on June 19, 1973.

3. Secondary and published sources:

Hays, Frank. A History of South Pass City. (ms. # 39)
Cheyenne, Wyoming: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Research Department, n.d.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This simple frontier structure is one of three false-front buildings with cornice and brackets still standing on South Pass Avenue in South Pass City, Wyoming.
2. Condition of fabric: Very poor and deteriorating.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This simple rectangular building is approximately 21' x 31' with a storage room constructed into the hill behind. This room is 21' x 10' and has a lower roof.
2. Foundation: There is evidence of a local red slate shist foundation under the log wall of the front (main) room. The rear room is constructed of local red slate shist walls acting as a retaining wall.

3. Wall construction finish and color: Lodgepole pine log walls with unfinished exposed walls at side and rear. Front wall of five inch lap siding.
4. Structural system, framing: Log bearing walls with frame roof.
5. Porches, stoops: Wooden steps and front entrance stoop.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney centered at rear of main room.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The recessed doorway at the center of front (south) wall had two double-leaf six-light doors of which only one remains.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Nine-light fixed sash each side of entry (only west unit remains). Three-light fixed sash each side wall of recessed entry (only west unit remains). Window opening on west (side) wall near rear of main room.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable with wood shingles over main room. Gable with log and dirt roof over rear room.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Horizontal, boxed cornice with brackets at top of false-front.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: This single floor structure has a main room at the front of the building and a rear room behind the building (which is built into the hill rising behind the building).
2. Stairways: None.
3. Flooring: Three-and-one-half inch tongue and groove flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls of the front room are painted gypsum board. The walls of the rear room are log on the wall between the two rooms, red slate on the west and north walls and red brick on the east wall. The ceiling in the main room has a board ceiling which was originally painted. The ceiling in the rear room (of which only the east half remains) is made of exposed logs.

5. Doorways and doors: One doorway with no door is located at the rear of the main room and leads to the rear room.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located at the main intersection in South Pass City, this building faces due south.
2. Outbuildings: There is an attached shed at the east side of the rear room, but has no access to the building. There is a two room privy immediately east of this room and between this building and the Smith-Sherlock Store.

Prepared by J. William Rudd
Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the 1973 Wyoming Project undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission. During the project, records were made on twenty-eight (28) individual subjects and six (6) historic areas.

This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati. Project Historian was John Paige, Oklahoma State University. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir, University of California at Berkeley, Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq, University of Cincinnati, Clayton Fraser, University of Tennessee, and Richard Wyatt, California Polytechnic University at San Luis Obispo. Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.